Remarks

Entry of the foregoing amendment into the above identified Application, prior to examination thereof, is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment, claims 2-34 are pending in the application, with claims 2, 18, and 19 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. New claims 2-34 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In the Claims:

Support for claims 2-34 can be found throughout the specification and accompanying drawings. Newly added claims 2-34 are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The amendments made herein introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

W/My 1. M Call, Roy No 46, 126
Michael Lee

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 35,239

Date: (), 18, 2001

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.

Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20005-3934

(202) 371-2600

C:\WINDOWS\TEMP\prelim.wpd SKGF Rev. 3/4/98

Appl. No. 09/545,564 Germeraad et al.

Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 2-34 have been added.

C:\WINDOWS\TEMP\prelim.wpd